

Paris Codeword

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1968 OCT 23 23 33

PP ZCZCKAB647
DE [redacted] 2972250
P 232045Z
FM DIRNSA
TO WHITE HOUSE (ATTN: MR ARTHUR MCCAFFERTY)
ZEM

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TRANSMITTED HERewith IS A [redacted] MESSAGE.
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THIEU'S VIEWS ON NLF PARTICIPATION IN VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT

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[redacted] 19 OCT 68 [redacted] 1.4(c)

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[redacted] OF WHAT PRESIDENT THIEU SAID
ON 18 OCTOBER.

1. PRESIDENT THIEU POINTED OUT THE FACTS THAT HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED [redacted] ALONG WITH WHAT WAS REPORTED [redacted]
[redacted] CONCERNING THE NLF DELEGATION'S ELIGIBILITY TO
PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL TALKS, THE THING THEY CANNOT COME
TO AN AGREEMENT ON, PRESIDENT THIEU SAID HE CONCURS ON THE
ITEMS THAT WERE AGREED UPON AT THE UNOFFICIAL TALKS BETWEEN
THE U. S. AND NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATIONS, AND, AS FOR WHAT
U. S. AMBASSADOR TO KOREA PORTER SAID, THE PROBLEM LIES IN
THE UNDERSTANDING.

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HE SAID THAT THE REASON FOR THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT
OPPOSING THE NLF'S PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL TALKS IN
AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY IS THAT THE VIETNAMESE CONSTITUTION
HOLDS THE COMMUNIST PARTY TO BE ILLEGAL, AND THE POINT IS
THAT THE NLF SHIFTS ITS POSITION AT HANOI'S BECK AND CALL;
ACCORDINGLY, ((THIEU)) IS ADOPTING THE VIEWPOINT THAT IT IS
ALL RIGHT FOR THE ((NLF)) TO PARTICIPATE AS A MEMBER OF HANOI'S
DELEGATION. HE SAID THAT IN THE EVENT THAT THE NLF DELE
GATION PARTICIPATES IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY IT WOULD NOT
MERELY MEAN THAT WE ARE LEGALIZING THE COMMUNIST PARTY, BUT
THE COMMUNIST SIDE WOULD MAINTAIN THEIR COALITION, AND SINCE
WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT DEMANDS THEY WOULD MAKE ON THE U. S. AND
VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS, WE MUST PREVENT THIS.

4. IN THIS MATTER OF THE NLF DELEGATION'S ELIGIBILITY,
HE IS CONSCIOUS OF THE NECESSITY OF [redacted] CLEARLY TO THE U. S.
SIDE THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWPOINT BEFORE THE OPENING
OF THE POLITICAL TALKS. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT, FOR
THE SAKE OF PROTECTING OURSELVES AGAINST THE GREAT POSSIBILITY,
AFTER THE POLITICAL TALKS ARE HELD, OF U. S. AND WORLD OPINION
CRITICIZING JUST THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ONE-SIDEDLY WHEN
THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT'S DELEGATION THINKS THE CIRCUMSTANCES

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VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS, WE MUST PREVENT THIS.

4. IN THIS MATTER OF THE NLF DELEGATION'S ELIGIBILITY, HE IS CONSCIOUS OF THE NECESSITY OF [REDACTED] CLEARLY TO THE U.S. SIDE THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWPOINT BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE POLITICAL TALKS. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT, FOR THE SAKE OF PROTECTING OURSELVES AGAINST THE GREAT POSSIBILITY, AFTER THE POLITICAL TALKS ARE HELD, OF U.S. AND WORLD OPINION CRITICIZING JUST THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ONE-SIDEDLY WHEN THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT'S DELEGATION THINKS THE CIRCUMSTANCES ((DICTATED)), WITHDRAWING FROM THE SITE OF THE TALKS ON THE NLF MATTER. 1.4(c)

5. [REDACTED] AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE VIETNAMESE ARE OPPOSING THE U.S. IN THIS AND CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY ((OF THE U.S.)) MAKING A DECISIVE MOVE TO HALT THE BOMBING ALONE; THE FOLLOWING [REDACTED] 1.4(c)

HE SAID THE U.S. CAN, OF COURSE, CEASE BOMBING, BUT IS UNABLE TO BLOCK VIETNAM ((FROM BOMBING)). CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE BOMBING HALT, THIS WILL HELP CANDIDATE HUMPHREY AND THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF IT; BUT THE SITUATION WHICH WOULD OCCUR AS THE RESULT OF A BOMBING HALT, WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN BEING A DISADVANTAGE TO CANDIDATE HUMPHREY, WOULD BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF CANDIDATE NIXON. ACCORDINGLY, HE SAID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON ENFORCING A BOMBING HALT WITHOUT VIETNAM'S AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE WEAK, [REDACTED] JUST HOW EFFECTIVE CAN IT BE WITHIN THE SHORT TIME BEFORE THE ELECTION, EVEN THOUGH IT IS EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED? 1.4(c)

6. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATIONS WITHIN VIETNAM ARE DEVELOPING TO OUR ADVANTAGE, THE LONGER WE CAN DELAY THE TIME ((OF THE BOMBING HALT)) THE GREATER WILL BE THE ADVANTAGE TO THE VIETNAMESE SIDE.

7. HE SAID THAT IN THE EVENT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE NLF, THEY WILL LOSE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ([REDACTED]) CONTROL THEM. MILITARY AUTHORITIES OR A GROUP OF POWERFUL ANTI-COMMUNIST PEOPLE MIGHT UNDERTAKE A REVOLUTION. 1.4(c)

8. AT THIS TIME, [REDACTED] TO PRESIDENT THIEU THE NEW STAND THAT [REDACTED] THE PRESIDENT IS ADOPTING, AS IN ITEM TWO OF [REDACTED] THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KOREA'S STAND IN THE MATTER AND THAT OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, SHED LIGHT ON THE POINT THAT ((KOREA)) IS STRONGLY BACKING ((THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT)), AND [REDACTED] THE OPINION THAT IT IS BEST THAT [REDACTED] TWO COUNTRIES WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER AND TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE ((ON THESE MATTERS)). 1.4(c)

((A)) NOT AVAILABLE.

((B)) IN SERIES CHECK.

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